



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

them in your program is giving them good advertising because you are bringing them before the public in a new way. The public does not understand the blind. They pity them and pass on or stop to drop a nickel in the cup. They do not see the blind worker in the factories, in business, and professional life. You are going to tell them that the blind are interested in life and education. They have the same desire for books and the same discrimination in their selection. It is not sufficient to supply the books. They must be distributed and circulated among the blind.

The expense of making the plates is so great that the commercial printing of books for the blind is almost an impossibility. A novel which you would buy for \$1.50 would cost probably \$10 in braille. As a usual thing the ordinary book runs from three to seven volumes in braille and costs from \$5 to \$10. Because of the cost and bulk of braille books it will be seen that the average man cannot possess many books. We have about forty libraries

which have departments for the blind and only about a dozen of them are keeping up with the supply.

Since taking up this work I have been asked by several people if it would not be better to leave the work to the established agencies for the blind. Libraries are public institutions with funds to be used for certain purposes, and this may not be considered. No one library could do anything in a general way for the whole country. As I understand it you are simply underwriting the cost of plates in production of books which will take the place of the commercial element.

Their tastes have not changed any since they lost their sight. They want the same books and they want them more than they ever wanted them before. But there aren't enough to go around and, consequently, the readers are being deprived of books. *What we need is more of everything so that some of us can get enough of something.* A frank, clear statement is all that is needed to get people's interest.

### THE MODERN MEDUSA

By FREDERICK C. HICKS, *Law Librarian, Columbia University, New York City*

*"Index-learning turns no student pale,  
Yet holds the eel of science by the tail."  
Dunciad 1:279-80.*

In this often quoted couplet, Pope struck off two truths, a half-truth and a whole-truth. It may have been the fact in his time that a student who depended upon indexes was so freed from labor that he needed not to become pallid from overwork; but in this day and generation he may well lose color when he contemplates the vast array of material pointed out by the indexes. On the other hand, the passage of time and the accumulating wealth of literature makes it certain that only by index-learning can one grasp and hold the tail of the eel of science. Science cannot today be likened to a single eel wriggling and twisting to elude our grasp, but rather to a Medusa whose locks are formed by numerous eels of this and that science

and literature. Billings and Fletcher, armed with the *Index Medicus*, like Perseus of old, courageously attacked this dread creature, but they did not succeed in cutting off her head to place it on the shield of Athena, the Goddess of Wisdom. Their's was an unending battle which was taken up by Poole and another Fletcher, and which is carried on today by a host of combatants. The horrid locks still wave, but less violently since the attack has been joined by the *Readers Guide*, the *International Catalogue of Scientific Literature*, the agricultural, dramatic, industrial arts, military and psychological indexes, the *Public Affairs Information Service*, and the *Index to Legal Periodicals*.

The periodical literature of the world is less elusive today because of the self-sacrificing labors of men and women, some of whom are as mythological to the young-

er generation of library workers as is Perseus. But we owe to them and to their successors a debt of gratitude that cannot be repaid. We have only to project ourselves back to the time when there were no such indexes to realize how much we depend upon them. In American library history, there is no achievement more permanently useful and presently helpful than the publication of these various indexes to periodical and other current literature. Therefore, speaking for all those who would give credit where it is due, I raise my voice in praise of those who have made index-learning possible, and I name them again so that, though they are often on our lips, we may not forget them. Let us not forget Poole and Fletcher who were brother librarians, whose labors in our behalf were Herculean; nor Billings, whose index-learning while actively in the medical profession led him into our own ranks; nor Jones, who did for the lawyer what Billings did for the physician; nor Lapp, whose initiative and foresight created the *Public Affairs Information Service*; nor all those, too numerous to be mentioned, who took the lamp of index-learning from the hands of the Fathers; nor, finally, Wilson, that publisher, without whose business acumen, intelligent appreciation, and splendid patience, some of these indexes would have languished and died.

#### The Eel of Legal Science

It happens that the original hero of Pope's poem in which occurs the quotation with which this paper begins, was one Lewis Theobald. He was an attorney who aroused the poet's ire by issuing a pamphlet entitled *Shakespeare Restored, or An Exposure of the Blunders Committed and Unamended in Mr. Pope's Late Edition*. While literary criticism has shown that Theobald was more nearly right than Pope in the annotation of Shakespeare, the attorney was undoubtedly addicted to index-learning, a subject in which lawyers have, by the very nature of their calling, always found it necessary to be

proficient. I therefore make no quarrel with Pope's ill-natured reference, but use it as a pretext for discussing the history, present status and possible future of the indexing of legal periodicals.

#### Jones' Index

Until Poole published his Index, the general periodical literature of the English speaking world was a vast desert in which the searcher wandered aimlessly, or guided only by such uncertain paths as had been trodden by a few hardy travellers; and even yet, back of the period to which his great work is a welcome guide, there stretches an uncharted plane. His volumes and their immediate successors cover the period from 1802 to 1907. Within that period, did they cover the whole field? Obviously they could not. For instance, they did not attempt to include legal periodicals of which there were many of ancient and honorable lineage. Exactly five were indexed, viz., the *American Law Review*, the *Western Law Journal*, the *Juridical Review*, the *Law Quarterly Review*, and the *Harvard Law Review*, amounting together to ninety-five volumes. Therefore, when Leonard Augustus Jones, in 1888, published the first volume of his *Index to Legal Periodical Literature\**, he made a positive contribution to the apparatus of index-learning. His first volume is an open sesame to 158 different periodicals, all that had been published in English up to the end of 1886, amounting to 1,373 volumes. To these, by the aid of Poole, he added the legal articles in 113 general periodicals contained in 4,400 volumes. His second volume, published in 1899, covered the contents of 29 legal periodicals in 982 volumes, and the legal articles in 55 general periodicals in 630 volumes. Thus in his two volumes he gave us a key to the contents, hitherto unlocked, of 2,355 volumes of legal periodicals, while at the same time he brought together and placed under their appropriate headings the legal contents of 5,030

\*Boston, Boston Book co., 1888-1899. 2 v. v. 1, to Jan. 1887; v. 2, 1887-1897.

volumes of general periodicals. This was a genuine achievement that no librarian can afford to overlook. He says in the preface to his first volume, "I have attempted in this *Index* to refer to the articles relating to matters of law and legislation contained in the whole body of periodical literature in the English language published prior to January, 1887. To this end, I have included references to the articles, papers, correspondence, annotated cases, and biographical notices in the legal journals of America, England, Scotland, Ireland, and the English colonies; and to such articles in the principal literary reviews and magazines of these countries as seemed to belong properly to legal literature. I have also included references to the papers and proceedings of the American Bar Association, and of the various state bar associations; and also references to such of the papers and transactions of the English and American social service associations, and of the Statistical Society, as seemed to come within the scope of this *Index*. I have given much attention to references to biographical articles relating to distinguished judges and lawyers, both living and deceased. Accordingly, such notices in all the journals and reviews, which seemed to be of value, even when brief, have been referred to. Moreover, all the reports of the American courts, some three thousand volumes, have been examined volume by volume, in order to make references to the proceedings in court and eulogies upon the occasion of the decease of eminent judges and lawyers." His second volume is of even wider scope than the first, since it includes articles upon law, legislation, political science, economics, sociology and legal biography. The man who did this work is entitled to more than a passing word at our hands. Leonard A. Jones\* was not a librarian, but a lawyer, judge, editor and writer. Born in 1832 at Templeton, Mass., he graduated from Harvard College in 1855 and from Harvard Law School in

1858. Until his death in 1909 he maintained a law office in Boston, and from 1898 to 1908 he was Judge of the Court of Land Registration of Massachusetts. It is difficult to see how he could have devoted much continuous time to practice because of the great volume of his literary output. Twelve treatises came from his pen, three of them of two volumes each, and seven of them appearing in from two to seven successive editions. Of four of them, editions have been issued since his death.\* He was the author of fifty-nine periodical articles, and beginning in 1884 he became an editor of the *American Law Review*.

For years he was a familiar figure at his table in the old Social Law Library in Boston, where he worked according to schedule, so many hours a day, punctual in beginning and in ending each day's period of labor. If his works are not monuments of constructive legal thought attempting to mold and lead juridical opinion, they are faithful records of existing pronouncements of the courts and commands of the legislatures, and they have the supreme merit of being based on honest labor. He never cited an authority until he had personally examined it. This fact is worthy of note when evaluating his *Index to Legal Periodical Literature*. He saw with his own eyes and handled with his own hands every item indexed. Not only was this true of legal periodicals and law reports, but also of the articles in general periodicals the references for which he found in *Poole*. He says in his preface (volume 1), "I am much indebted to Mr. Poole's admirable *Index*; but all these articles have been examined in the periodicals themselves, in making references in the present *Index*; and some of the prin-

\*Fraudulent mortgages, 1879; Mortgages of personal property, 1881, 1883, 1888, 1894, 1908; Mortgages of real property, 1878, 1879, 1882, 1889, 1894, 1904, 1915; Collateral securities and pledges, 1883, 1901, 1912; Corporate bonds and mortgages, 1879, 1890, 1907; Easements, 1898; Landlord and tenant, 1906; Liens, 1888, 1894, 1914; Pledges, 1883, 1901; Real property, 1896; Forms of conveyancing, 1886, 1891, 1892, 1894, 1899, 1909, 1919; Judiciary and Bar of New England, 1900-1.

\*Biographical sketch and portrait, 41 *Am. Law R.* 111 (1907).

cial reviews and magazines have been examined throughout, to select the articles referred to." In his work of indexing he was assisted by Miss Clara Farnham.

#### American Association of Law Libraries

*Jones' Index* was the work of a painstaking, competent man; it was well done; it filled a real need; yet no provision was made for its continuance. The publishers stated, after the passage of ten years, that the sale of the two volumes did not justify the publication of a third. The American Library Association, which had fostered and kept alive the *Index* of Poole and Fletcher, showed no interest in this special index. But there had come into existence on July 2, 1906, a little organization of librarians under the name American Association of Law Libraries. It was formed at the Narragansett Conference of the American Library Association "to develop and increase the usefulness and efficiency of the several law libraries," and one of its first committees, composed of Messrs. Schenk, Gilbert and Glasier, was On Indexing Legal Periodicals. This committee made a careful study of the existing situation regarding the indexing of legal periodical literature,\* and at the second annual meeting recommended that the Association establish a quarterly journal, to serve as a medium whereby members could discuss subjects of interest, provide a clearing house for duplicates and legal bibliographical information, and publish a quarterly index to legal periodicals. The report of the committee was approved and the publication launched. This took faith, courage and work. The initiative in forming the Association was taken by three men, viz., Franklin O. Poole, A. J. Small and G. E. Wire. The Association began with a charter membership of twenty-four, and when publication of the *Index* and *Journal* was begun there were only 77 members, upon whom rested the duty of underwriting the project. A board

of editors was appointed, and the first number issued in January, 1908. The indexing of periodicals was done by Frederick W. Schenk, Law Librarian, University of Chicago, then serving as managing editor. The remaining numbers of the first volume were prepared co-operatively by members of the Association under direction of the board of editors, Mr. Glasier having succeeded Mr. Schenk as managing editor. No funds were available to pay for this work, so that the editors and members served entirely without compensation. In the first volume, cumulated in January, 1909, 39 periodicals were included, making an index of 180 pages. It soon became evident that co-operation in the preparation and editing of a journal and index was a cumbersome method involving the greatest amount of effort on the part of the editors and co-operators with the minimum of efficiency. Therefore, with volume two, an indexer was engaged, to serve under a managing editor, and this was the beginning of development toward the present method by which one person is engaged to have full charge of the editing of the *Journal* and *Index*.\* Let no one be misled by this statement. The compensation has always been negligible in comparison with the work done. The successive editors, judging their work by business standards, have never been compensated. They have without exception practically contributed their services for the good of the cause; and I here pay my personal tribute to them, individually and collectively. For six years also, the business management was conducted, without compensation, by Messrs. Steinmetz, Butler and Schenk. It is largely due to

\*The succession in the editorship is shown below:

v. 1. Managing editor, Frederick W. Schenk, succeeded by Gilson G. Glasier. Indexing done co-operatively.

v. 2-3. Managing editor, Gilson W. Glasier. Indexer, Karl E. Steinmetz.

v. 4. Editor, Karl E. Steinmetz.

v. 5-6. Editor, Frederick W. Schenk.

v. 7. Managing editor, Mr. Schenk, assisted by Miss Gertrude E. Woodard, University of Michigan Law Library.

v. 8-12. Editor, Miss Woodard.

v. 13-. Editor, Miss Elsie Basset, Columbia University Law Library.

\*Available published indices of legal periodical literature, *A. L. A. Bulletin*, 1:252-254 (1907); *Law Library Journal*, 1:20-22.

their efforts that, by securing paid advertisements, sufficient funds were acquired to keep the publication going. With volume seven, the business management and publishing were entrusted to the H. W. Wilson Company, the editorial work still being done under the direction of the Association.

In spite of all handicaps the *Index* has grown and now fills an important place in the world of index-learning. Its first number indexed only 17 periodicals; today it indexes 62. The twelve volumes already issued total 2,207 pages.

#### Chipman's Index

One of the earliest projects of the American Association of Law Libraries was the compilation and publication of a volume to fill in the gap between Jones' second volume and the beginning of the Association's *Index to Legal Periodicals*. Largely for financial reasons and because the little group of law librarians was engrossed in the issuance of the current index, the Association did not accomplish this project. The work has, however, now been done.\* It is a volume of 549 pages, which indexes the contents of 512 volumes belonging to 60 different legal periodicals published in the English language from January, 1898, to December, 1907. It covers also some items printed during 1897 which were omitted from the second volume of Jones. When in 1908, the American Association of Law Libraries was considering the publication of this third volume, its Committee found that "the compilation of a supplementary volume would not be undertaken by a publishing house, inasmuch as the sale would not provide remuneration for both the compiler and publisher." In 1918, that situation still existed, but it was met by Mr. Frank E. Chipman, President of the Boston Book Company. He is both compiler and publisher of this volume. The work is his personal contribution, and as he says in his preface, "it was carried on almost entirely outside of office

hours. Evenings and holidays, for sixteen months, were cheerfully sacrificed that the work could be completed at the earliest possible moment." His work also is a labor of love to which the whole library profession is indebted.

That the chronological order of issuance and description may not confuse the reader, let it now be stated that there exists today a complete index of legal periodicals in the English language from their beginning to the present time; and that there is a quarterly index with yearly cumulations currently issued.\* For the period up to the end of 1897, this series covers not only articles in legal periodicals, but legal articles in general periodicals. After 1897 only articles in legal periodicals are indexed. That it fills a real want among reference books is shown by the fact that, whereas *Poole* indexes only five legal periodicals, the *Readers Guide* indexes none.

#### Not an Index Librorum Prohibitorum

It may appear to have been a work of supererogation to recount the above details when library schools have such useful courses on reference books, and when the items are so well described in *Mudge's Kroeger's Guide*. The recital seems to be justified, however, by the fact that only nine public libraries are subscribers to the *Index to Legal Periodicals*. After the publication of the proceedings of this meeting I hope there will be no ground for suspicion that public librarians as a class do not know about the *Index*, and perhaps that suspicion is not even now justified. If not, then we are driven to the conclusion that public librarians are not convinced of the value of the *Index to Legal Periodicals* in their particular work. Assuming that this is the case, it cannot be too strongly asserted that the word "legal" in the title does not give to the work the

\*Jones' Index, v. 1 (— to Jan. 1887)

Jones' Index, v. 2, (1887-1897)

Chipman's Index, v. 3, (1898-1907)

Index to Legal Periodicals, v. 1-12, (1908-1919)

Index to Legal Periodicals, v. 13, (Quarterly)

\*An index to legal periodical literature. v. 3, 1898-1908. Boston Book Company, 1919.

character of an *Index Librorum Prohibitorum*. The time has long since passed when it should need to be stated that law is a subject which in every era forms an essential stratum in the structure of society. Cleave down through any part of this structure, with an interest whetted by literature, fine arts, religion, history, economics, sociology or science, and you come to a layer of law,—not lawyer's law alone, but the people's law, the law which molds and in turn is molded by civilization. Jones realized this when in the preface to his *Index* (volume 2) he quoted the President of Yale University. "The scientific study of the law," said President Hadley, "has had and still has a close affiliation with the scientific study of political economy. This affiliation between economics and jurisprudence is manifest alike in their data, their methods, and their conclusions." There is a legal side to nearly every subject of investigation and research, and the passage of time serves to illustrate more fully the bearing of law and legal discussions on matters of general interest.

*Poole's Index* and the *Reader's Guide* form the great central edifice of indexing; but every reference department worthy of the name knows that this edifice would tumble when put to severe tests if it were not buttressed by the various indexes to periodicals on special subjects. One such buttress is the *Index to Legal Periodicals*. Let it stand in your library in its proper place of support, and you will find it capable of rendering unsuspected service. Can this be demonstrated? Lawyers as a class are prone to spread their thoughts on the printed page. The *Reader's Guide* indexes thousands of articles by lawyers who have contributed to general periodicals. These, public librarians include in their reading lists, bibliographies, etc., and point out to their readers because they are in the *Guide* and are not labeled *legal*. But if the same men have written better articles on the same subjects of general interest, and these articles are published in legal periodicals

and therefore are to be found only by means of the *Index to Legal Periodicals*, they are lost both to the public librarians and readers of public libraries. Such a result does not square with the slogan *BOOKS FOR EVERYBODY*; much less does it conform to a more scientific precept which might read *ALL OF THE BEST BOOKS FOR EVERYBODY*.

But let me read your thoughts. You are saying, first, "There cannot be much of general interest in legal periodicals. They and their *Index* are for lawyers, not for laymen. Let the law libraries supply this information." Have you ever examined the *Index*? Take any number, and count the headings which may be of interest to the general public. In the October, 1919, issue I counted 74; and to test my judgment as to their character, I compared them with the headings in the 1919 volume of the *Reader's Guide*. Out of the 74, sixty-six appeared in both indexes. There is nothing that should repel the veriest layman in such headings as Aerial Navigation, Aliens, Bible, Bolshevism, Cost of Living, Divorce, Free speech, Income tax, Initiative and Referendum, League of Nations, Marriage, Peace, Poetry, Profiteering, Sedition, Vaccination, Vocational Education, War, and Workmen's Compensation. Nor should the general librarian neglect articles in legal periodicals by such men as James M. Beck, Theodore E. Burton, Frederic R. Coudert, David J. Hill, Charles E. Hughes, Henry St. George Tucker, Enoch H. Crowder, Sir Frederick Pollock, Roscoe Pound, Elihu Root, William H. Taft, Arthur Train, Simeon E. Baldwin, A. Mitchell Palmer and Roland G. Usher.

Next, you are thinking, "That is all very well, but we haven't the periodicals. Of what use then would the *Index* be?" This I answer by three questions. First, should you not have on your shelves a goodly number of these legal periodicals, since they contain so much of general interest written by specialists in their subjects? Second, would not the *Index*, habitually used, create a demand for these very peri-

odicals—a demand quite as legitimate as that which has been created by *Poole's Index* and the *Reader's Guide* for periodicals many of which have little sustained merit? And third, does not the bibliographical value of the *Index* give it a place in all libraries which hold themselves out as sponsors for knowledge?

I make no apology for speaking at such length concerning the *Index to Legal Periodicals*. It is the chief contribution of the American Association of Law Libraries in the field of library science. It was conceived, developed and carried to its present success entirely without the aid of the American Library Association. There was a time when *Poole's Index* would have languished and died if it had not been fostered by the A. L. A. Such has never been the state of this limb of the law libraries. There has never been any doubt that it would survive and bring forth fruit. We ask you merely as individual libraries to partake of this fruit, without other obligation than to pay for what you get. Thus there will be provided sufficient nurture so that natural and long-foreseen developments may be made. These developments would probably include the following:

(1) The inclusion in the *Index* of papers printed in all legal society publications, such as the reports of the respective Bar Associations.

(2) The inclusion of articles in foreign periodicals devoted to law, both public and private. At the present time, this important field is covered by no index published either at home or abroad.

(3) The adoption of a fixed policy of cumulation of the annual volumes of the

*Index*, at intervals of three, five or seven years, as the amount of material accumulated and financial considerations might dictate.

(4) The development and improvement of the *Law Library Journal* which is published in conjunction with the *Index*. The twelve volumes of the *Journal* already published fill 1,003 pages with material relating to library economy with particular reference to law libraries; to legal bibliography; to legal history; and to law library history. When there are library schools which cover the whole field of library work and therefore prepare students for law library positions this *Journal* will be found to be the one source of information and inspiration concerning a specialty already too long neglected.

Following the reputed methods of the orators of an organization which carried a national movement to conspicuous success, I have now devoted myself successively, first, to conciliation, second, to information, third, to inflammation, and have now reached the time which should be given to "coin-secration," which—to quote—covers "the explanation of the subscriptions and the 'motor cue,' which will lead people to enroll." This I will spare you. No other motorization is needed than realization of the essential unity of library work—a concept which includes all such sounding words as co-operation, co-ordination and the rest, and which gives a place to every library organization, affiliated or otherwise, in the American Library Association's Enlarged Program for the promotion of library service in the United States.

## COUNTY LIBRARIES AND THEIR CATALOG PROBLEMS

By JENNIE HERRMAN, *Librarian, San Diego County Free Library, San Diego, California*

In considering problems of cataloging in county libraries, you must first see the California type of county library to get the viewpoint of our type of service, and as eastern counties are very different in size

and type of communities, your problems will vary from ours.

San Diego county, for example, is as large as the state of Connecticut. We serve approximately 14,000 people, besides